



Society of
Indiana
Archivists

Preserving Indiana History

Fall/Winter 2020



Bridgeton Covered Bridge, Parke County, Indiana, 1946. Image: Ball State University Documents + Drawings Archives

Upcoming Educational Opportunities

Fall Virtual Conference

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New! Virtual Pop-Ups

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2021 Annual Meeting

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Bethany Fiechter is the University Archivist at DePauw University. You can reach Bethany at bethanyfiechter@depauw.edu or 765-658-4407.



Colleagues,

First of all, I miss you and hope you are well. If you're like me, you've been struggling to remember what day it is, let alone which month. By the time you read this it'll be fall. Where did the summer go? This part of the year reminds me of the Covered Bridge Festival in our beloved Parke County, the covered bridge capital of the world. The image on this newsletter cover is one of my favorite covered bridges located in Bridgeton, Indiana. Even though the event is canceled this year, we're all a stone's throw away from some beautiful design and ingenuity in our state.

I sincerely hope this newsletter brings you a familiar comfort during this unprecedented time. I want to let you know the Board has been working diligently to provide a safe space for us to come together throughout the rest of 2020 and into 2021. I'm very excited to announce several educational opportunities for you at no cost if you're a SIA member.

Upcoming Fall Virtual Conference

The Board reached out to the 2020 Annual Meeting speakers and discovered they were willing to present their work this fall. We were saddened to learn the Midwest Archives Conference/Society of Indiana Archivists Fall Workshop was cancelled — but grateful our members will have the opportunity to present their work. Registration for SIA's first virtual conference is open until October 1, 2020.

New Virtual Pop-Ups

SIA has been spinning a pop-up idea for topical discussions for a while. What better time to start than now? We've lined up sessions on the first Friday of each month to keep in touch, learn from one another, and network! The

sessions are 1 hour long and will be hosted by SIA Board members to keep the conversations flowing. Please consider participating by sharing your experiences and asking any of your unanswered questions. If you're interested in leading a session, send me an email at bethanyfiechter@depauw.edu.

2021 Annual Meeting

Vice President Rich Bernier and the Local Arrangements Committee and Program Committee are already planning the 2021 spring Annual Meeting. Please add these dates to your calendar as we determine whether or not the meeting will be in-person or virtual. Stay tuned for more information.

Date: April 29-30, 2021

Location: Indianapolis, Indiana

Become a SIA Volunteer!

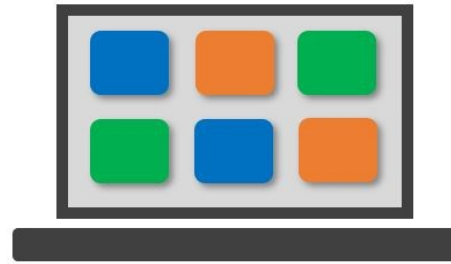
I hope 2020 is the year you consider being more active in SIA if you aren't already. We're an all-volunteer organization and always looking for new insight. I became a member during graduate school in 2010 and I'm thankful for the connections made over the last decade due to this organization. There are several opportunities for you to consider. For more information, complete the Volunteer Opportunities Form, here:

(<https://goo.gl/forms/HsHXwP2vEE67sNV12>).

As always, we're open to your thoughts, questions, or concerns. Be sure to contact us at siaarchivists@gmail.com if there's anything on your mind.

Until next time — stay safe and take care,

Bethany Fiechter



FALL 2020 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

October 8-9, 2020

REGISTRATION

Registration for the virtual conference is free and available to SIA members only. To register or become a member, visit the SIA website. Registration ends on October 1, 2020.

REGISTER HERE!

TECHNOLOGY

The virtual conference will be hosted using Zoom, a video and audio-conferencing platform. Attendees can participate by computer, tablet, or phone. Sign-in instructions will be sent via email on October 7, 2020. For additional help, visit Zoom's Help Center.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Kelley Brenneman, Bethany Fiechter, Denise Rayman, and Beth South for their help planning SIA's first virtual conference and all the presenters who agreed to participate during these unprecedented times.

Thursday, October 8, 2020

9:00-9:45am: My Experience as an Archival Intern with the Marine Corp

Malachai Darling, MLS Student at Indiana University

This past summer I interned with the United States Marine Corps in the Archives Branch of their History Division, on base in Quantico, Virginia. During that experience I learned a lot about what it means to work in a military archive, as well as gathered more experience working in a government archive. I would like to share that experience through a presentation where I walk through my experiences that summer, both the good and the bad, and what I learned. The goal of this presentation is to share the internship experience, while also talking about the pros and cons of the experience and how that might apply to others seeking internships or institutions seeking interns in the future.

9:55-10:40am: Humanities Research for the Public Good: Council of Independent Colleges Grant Outcomes at Three Indiana Institutions

Sally Childs-Helton, Butler University

Sarah Noonan, Saint Mary's College

Jessica Mahoney, Franklin College

In 2018 three Indiana schools applied for the Council of Independent Colleges "Humanities for the Public Good" grant for 2019-2020 and won three of the 25 grants awarded. The grants, in their first year, were created to connect independent colleges with their communities through undergraduate research, highlighting the importance of cultural heritage collections. Undergraduates experienced hands-on research with archival collections, and the challenge of making those collections accessible to the public through outreach and public programming.

This panel will explore how each school—Butler University, Franklin College, and Saint Mary's College—selected the collections, identified undergraduate students and community partners, created community outreach events, and received the benefits of the grant projects. Butler's grant deals with its collection from Black Arts Movement poet Etheridge Knight; its community partner is the Center for Black Culture and Literature at Indianapolis Public Library. Franklin's grant focuses on its Governor Roger D. Branigin Archives and community partners are the Indiana Historical Society and the Johnson County Museum of History. Saint Mary's grant pertains to its Sisters of the Holy Cross archives and materials that address the global refugee migration crisis; its community partner is the United Religious Community. This panel proposes to examine how these three very different grant projects engage undergraduates in archival research and outreach; improve preservation of and access to collections; create digital and physical exhibits; and use a variety of community outreach tools and events to reach diverse audiences, including K-12 and university students and local and regional audiences.

10:50-11:35am: Reflections of a First Time LSTA Grant Recipient and Project Manager

Matthew Behnke, Pike County Public Library

In this session, the Speaker will discuss challenges, surprises, and successes as a first time LSTA grant-writer, recipient, and project director. In the course of a year, the Speaker worked at the Pike County Public Library as Genealogy Librarian. The Grant Application, submitted in March 2019, focused on the PCPL's Veterans Collection. After being approved, the Digitization Project afforded the purchase of a flatbed scanner, an intern's salary, and archival supplies. It also allowed for the use of Contentdm, which will host the collection on the Indiana Memory's digital library.

The presentation will begin with a brief background of Pike County, Indiana and the importance of establishing need with grant writing. Pike County has historically had a high veteran population, with 8% of the current population having served in United States Armed Services. Pike County's status as part of the losing end of America's "digital divide," which negatively impacts digital literacy and information access, was also addressed as a need.

Next, the presentation will address the digitization and metadata creation process. Adherence to Qualified Dublin Core, which IMDPLA utilizes, with eight required metadata fields mapped to Contentdm was required. This made collaboration vitally important throughout the project. This includes the required aid of the State Library and the importance of seeking out information professionals or grant writers who have "been there". Lastly, the Speaker will address how information overload can compromise decision making, the need for the freedom to make mistakes, and how perfectionism can hinder progress.

11:35-1:30pm: Lunch Break

1:30-2:15pm: Creating an Online LGBTQ Archive Using IU Pressbooks

Beth South, Indiana University East

The IU East Campus Archives teamed up with Dr. Travis Rountree's ENG-W270 Argumentative Writing Class to create IU East's and Richmond, IN's first LGBTQ+ archive collection. Students from the class found an artifact or interviewed someone from the local LGBTQ community which was then donated to the IU East Archives. Students wrote and recorded their own reflections on the historical, cultural, or social importance of their artifacts or interviews and developed themes that they uncovered and wanted to further explore into a final research paper. This collection is a mix of student research as well as local LGBTQ community content. With the unique aspect of the collection being a mix of student research and primary resources presented in the same space, using an e-publishing platform like IU Pressbooks seemed like a great way for the students of the class and IU East Archivist to collaborate and curate a collection together; showcasing a glimpse of LGBTQ life in Richmond, IN and the surrounding areas. The e-book format also allows the collection to be easily accessible to the public, with chapters denoting different themes and it can be easily searched for those wanting to find specific content. Using a public platform like IU Pressbooks to build this collection also generated interesting conversations about student scholarship, intellectual property, and archival ethics. The IU East Archives hope to inform others of this particular tool and provide insight into how open access e-publishing platforms can benefit archives, museums, and libraries.

2:25-3:10pm: Incorporating Archives and Special Collections into the Undergraduate English Curriculum

Ashley Chu, Taylor University

For the past two years, the Ringenberg Archives & Special Collections at Taylor University has collaborated with the English department faculty to incorporate archives-based activities into a variety of the department's courses (i.e., College Composition, World Literature, Poetry Writing). Many of these classes now regularly schedule this class session in their syllabus and schedule. This session will share effective communication strategies to engage the teaching faculty, the process of working with teaching faculty to develop appropriate and relevant activities, and a brief summary of student responses. Challenges faced along the way, the revision of activities to increase effectiveness, and the vision for future growth in the area of curricular engagement at the undergraduate level will also be discussed.

Friday, October 9, 2020

9:00-9:45am: Digitization, Access, and the Ku Klux Klan

Lauren Patton, Indiana State Library

There are many subjects within an archive considered controversial at any given time, especially during a period of increased unrest. The Indiana State Library, Rare Books and Manuscripts Division recently completed a large-scale digitization project on the Ku Klux Klan, particularly from the 1920s, or “second revival”, when the organization’s presence was strongest in Indiana. Collections of this nature can be some of the most highly used in an institution, as was the case with the library’s United Klans of America records. A need to make the collection accessible online led to the development of a navigatable road map of the process, including identifying the need, data collection, presentation of findings, scanning, metadata, publication and reception.

The aim of this presentation is to empower archivists to branch out and initiate digitization projects considered controversial by administration, patrons, or society at large. Archivists can provide access to materials not seen elsewhere by creating a detailed plan involving everyone. Keeping in mind each institution has unique digitization workflows and requirements, this presentation will provide additional points for consideration not usually included during routine digitization projects.

9:55-10:40am: Collaborative Projects and Experiential Learning: PNC Book Project and Oral History Project

Joseph Coates, Purdue University Northwest

The Purdue University Archives and Special Collection conducted two experiential learning projects in 2018-2019. Both of these had student involvement, faculty-staff collaboration, and made students understand the proper usage, operation, and importance of archives.

The purpose of the Purdue University North Central book project was to use the archive and other primary source documents to record the history of PNC, which was in existence from 1947-2016. We had a member of the history faculty and the University Archivist oversee the project. Much of the project not only involved writing but processing collections, scanning photos, and other archival practices. This was an 18-month project, published by Kindle Publishing, with the money going to charity.

The purpose of the oral history project is to tell the history of Purdue University Northwest and to look ahead to the next milestone. We wanted to conduct 20 oral history interviews with former and long term faculty, staff, and alumni of Purdue University Calumet, Purdue North Central, and Purdue University Northwest in order to understand the changes that have taken place in the past 40 years of the university. This project was conducted in collaboration with the History Department, the Communication Department, and the University Archives.

10:50-11:35am: Reddit and Archives: Finding your Audience

Keenan Salla, Indiana Archives and Records Administration

Nearly every Archives has a social media presence, but very few make use of Reddit, despite the site’s popularity. While Reddit does not have the massive and broad audience of Facebook or Instagram, it may actually be more effective at reaching the audiences that are also likely to engage in Archival research. The subreddit system makes it possible to target a number of special interest groups, most particularly municipalities and geographical regions. This means that while material Reddit does not see the scale of engagement of a viral Twitter post, the audience engaged is much more likely to follow up beyond the “like” button. Further, the interface and group expectations of Reddit encourage discussion and research more than its competitors, often turning the audience

into educators themselves.

Over the past year, the Indiana State Archives implemented a Reddit account to modest success. The session will focus on the Archives successes, failures, and lessons learned in this regard, as well as providing trick and tips for the Archives and archivists that want to use the platform moving forward.

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11:35-12:20pm: What is ACA Certification? Should I Get It, How Do I Prepare, and How Do I Maintain It?

Richard Bernier, Purdue University Libraries

Tricia Gilson, Columbus Indiana Architectural Archives

Lisa Lobdell, The Great American Songbook Foundation

Lydia Spotts, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields

This panel discussion will provide an overview of the Academy of Certified Archivists (ACA) certification and its value within the profession as a supplement or substitute for an MLS with a concentration in archives. Individual panelists will share their decision-making process and considerations in studying for the CA informed by work context, job market, educational background, and career stage. The panel will share tips and tricks as well as tools used for studying for the test and maintaining certification after passing.

Lydia Spotts, Associate Archivist/Librarian at Newfields, recently sat for the exam in 2018 following a period of un- and underemployment in a limited regional job market. She will briefly review the history of ACA, est. 1989, the development of certification, requirements to sit for the exam, and fees as well as common critique and varying perspectives on the credential.

Richard Bernier, Archivist at Purdue University, will talk about why he decided to pursue the ACA certification in addition to formal archives coursework. He will also illustrate a system that he created for studying and taking notes for the test and how he tracks his continuing education activities to meet the requirements for recertification.

Tricia Gilson, archivist at the Columbus Indiana Architectural Archives, will talk about how she incorporates ACA certification guidelines in to her current work programs and why she has decided not to pursue ACA certification.

Lisa Lobdell, Archivist at the Great American Songbook Foundation, will share her reasons for pursuing ACA certification after eight years as a lone arranger as well as the professional outcomes of receiving certification.



Newsletter Update from the Communication Committee



The Communication Committee would like to thank Adriana Harmeyer, Archivist for University History at Purdue University, for her six years of service as SIA's newsletter editor. At the time of Adriana's departure from the position of editor in July, the committee decided to take the opportunity to re-examine the role and format of the newsletter to consider how it can best serve the needs

of SIA members. With the approval of the Board, the Committee explored the idea of converting the newsletter into a blog format utilizing the blogging module of WildApricot, SIA's current association management software. However, investigation into the features of the blogging module indicated that it may not be a good fit for the newsletter. In particular, there is a lack of tagging capability for blog posts, as well as restrictions on user commenting features.

These limitations, combined with the challenges in soliciting content and the fact that a new editor has yet to be identified, have led the Communication Committee to the conclusion that a more in-depth analysis of the newsletter is needed. The Committee is currently developing a survey to be sent to all SIA members to determine their thoughts about the newsletter. Once you receive the survey, we encourage you to take a few moments to complete it to assist the Communication Committee in its efforts to determine how SIA will distribute information to its members in the future.

Would you like to serve as our next Newsletter/Blog Editor? Interested candidates should contact siaarchivists@gmail.com.

Support SIA with Your Donation

The Society of Indiana Archivists is a non-profit organization, categorized as a public charity under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) (and further classified under 509(a)(2)). Donations can be sent for our general fund, which supports the day-to-day functions of SIA, or our scholarship fund, which supports the Thomas Krasean Student Scholarship and the John Newman Professional Development Scholarship.

[LEARN MORE](#)

New! Virtual Pop-Ups

Please mark your calendars and join us this winter for our new virtual pop-up series! What's a virtual pop-up? We're setting aside an hour during lunch to discuss archival issues. A leader will be designated for each pop-up and facilitate the online discussion.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Friday, November 6th | 11:30-12:30pm

PROVIDING VIRTUAL REFERENCE AND OUTREACH SERVICES

Claire Horton

The COVID-19 pandemic has required archivists to make changes in the way we work and provide access to our collections. Many institutions have adopted new restrictions for on-site research, and have turned traditional outreach events into webinars. Come discuss strategies for connecting with patrons virtually, providing a safe reading room environment for patrons, and cultivating outreach opportunities on the web.

Friday, December 4th | 11:30-12:30pm

COMMUNICATING AND CONNECTING WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Ashley Chu

While a key component of archival work includes collecting and preserving materials, communicating about a collection and promoting its use are also extremely important. This conversation will focus on sharing strategies, successes, challenges, and ideas for promoting the purpose and use of the collection, building relationships with stakeholders, and leveraging an archives as a value-add to an organization.

Friday, January 8th | 12:30-1:30pm

**A MONKEY WRENCH: ADDING PANDEMIC TO
DISASTER PLAN**

Kaman Hillenburg

Prior to 2020 many of us thought that a comprehensive disaster plan only needed to cover natural disasters, active shooters, and terrorist threats. Little did we know that the topic of pandemic is now a quintessential chapter. Come and join fellow members to discuss ways to prepare a sweeping plan for future pandemic and epidemic diseases.

SIA Annual Meeting

A NEW NORMAL

THE PROFESSION AT A CROSSROADS

Friday, April 30, 2021

The Annual Meeting Planning Committee is excited to announce that the preconference workshop and annual meeting will be held in Indianapolis during April 29-30, 2021.

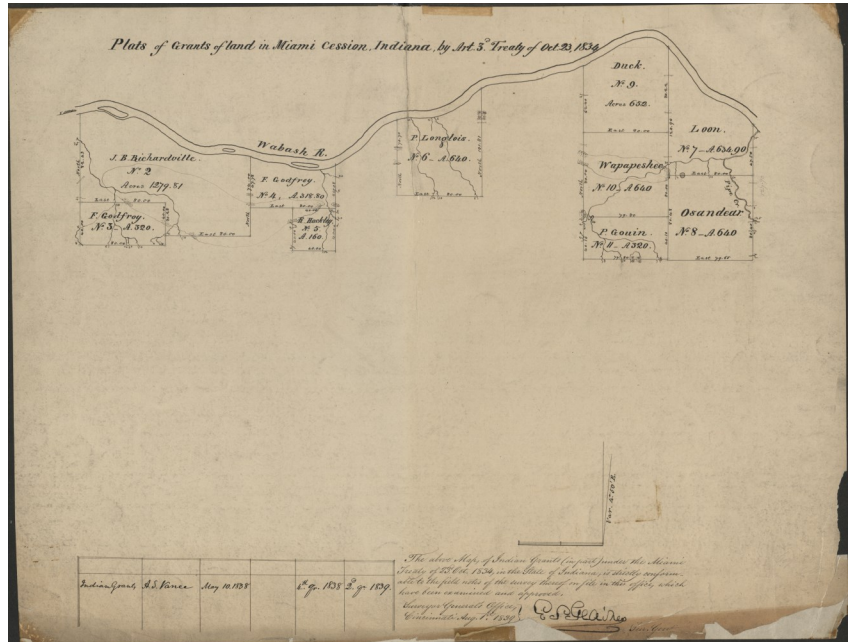
The 2021 theme A New Normal: The Profession at a Crossroads hopes to explore the changes within the profession by the pandemic and social unrest around the country. We will be looking for programs that discuss “the new normal” of operating under quarantine and in the era of COVID-19 to how archives are responding to and capturing the social movement of Black Lives Matter. For this “new normal,” we hope to go beyond the tips and tricks to how the events of 2020 may be reshaping what we do, how we do it, and the overall profession.

The committee is also working on contingency plans to host the Annual Meeting virtually if the need arises.

Digitized Treaty Maps Now Hosted on Indiana Memory

Jeannine Roe, Electronic Records Archivist, Indiana Archives and Records Administration

The Indiana Archives and Records Administration (IARA) is pleased to announce that a significant collection of Indian Treaty Maps is now available for access on Indiana Memory (<https://digital.library.in.gov/>). The original treaty maps were transferred to the Indiana State Archives from the Auditor of State and various Land Offices that were in operation over the years. Beginning in 2010, the maps were identified, separated from other land records, and conserved, while volunteers provided much of the indexing. In 2020, Reference Archivist Keenan Salla has led efforts to scan, describe, and upload materials to the online collection.



Survey maps were drawn after each treaty was written and represent lands belonging to the Native American families who remained in Indiana. These treaty maps show the exact boundaries of reservation lands and are therefore of interest to researchers, surveyors, local history groups, and genealogists alike. Indexed treaty maps in IARA's holdings range from an early map of Indiana Reserve Islands in the Wabash River by surveyor William Harris (1814) to a set of maps of Miami reservation lands near Wildcat and Pipe Creeks by surveyor Lucius Lyon (1868), while the digitized maps range from circa 1819 to 1847. Some of the maps are certified and signed by Edward Tiffin, who became the Surveyor General of the Northwest Territory in 1814.

Currently, 87 Treaty Indian Reservations survey maps are available on Indiana Memory. More visual objects like maps and plats will likely be uploaded to the collection in the future and other items are planned to be added to the repository, including Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home (ISSCH) records, Governors' correspondence, Supreme Court cases, collection finding aids, and state agency histories. All of IARA's land records are searchable via the Research Indiana Catalog available at <https://researchindiana.iara.in.gov/>.

IARA's ContentDM collection repository may be found [here](#).

Further information about the available treaty maps and Native American land records may be found [here](#).

Indiana Memory is a service provided by the Indiana State Library and made possible through grant funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

Engaging your Community of Interested Parties is Sometimes Difficult

Beth Swift, Archivist, Wabash College

As an archivist, engaging your community of interested parties is sometimes difficult. With so much noise out there on the Internet, how might you encourage greater usage of archival materials? Supposing that is a goal of most archivists, here are a few ideas that have worked here at Wabash.

Patron numbers are used to build a case for your archives, your budget requests and even your salary negotiations. You may ask, how might you increase the visibility of your particular archives? One way that I have found is using social media and technology tools to meet people where they are. Through the use of Instagram, a blog, and e-mail, I have found that people are really interested in a good story. Using these stories to highlight our offerings has really increased our visibility and resulted in an uptick in interest.

In 2008 I started blogging on a mostly monthly basis. As of this writing, there are now 12 years of posts to mine for repurposing. Each week an email goes out to everyone with a Wabash.edu address. After first checking with our IT department about sending an everyone e-mail, I started with a piece from 2018 highlighting Wabash and the Pandemic of 1918. At that time very few knew of the Spanish Flu and its impact worldwide. After we shut down this spring due to Covid-19, that post seemed so very timely.

The next email story was also tied to national news. This year marked the 50th anniversary of the doomed Apollo 13 mission. The picture above tells a bit of the story and its connections to Wabash. You will note that there is a face which is barely visible in the navy helicopter. Circled in red is Wabash's own loyal son, Keith Baird [W1956]. He was on the team of flight doctors for the mission. This image is of Baird's autographed copy of the return of the crew of Apollo 13. The faded inscription reads, "To Dr. Keith Baird. Many thanks for all your help on Apollo 13."

After that, there have been weekly emails that go out, repurposing my blog content and creating a regular feature. People on campus now stop to tell me how much they enjoy the stories and to keep it going. Even long retired faculty get in touch, often with additional information. The posts are always sent with a link to the blog embedded in the e-mail. As a result of the greater presence, student interest has increased. Just last week a student leader came to see me, socially distanced and masked, for additional material for an all-campus speech he was slated to deliver. We talked for most of an hour and he seemed delighted with the information he received. Hearing his speech later, it was clear that a very great deal of our discussion was useful to him in writing it. As an added bonus, after nearly 20 years here, I have recently been asked to provide some historical content to our student newspaper, *The Bachelor*.



Instagram is a good bit easier to utilize as it consists mainly of pictures and short, very short, text which puts the image into perspective. Posting once a week as Wally's Attic, because our mascot is Wally Wabash, is a fairly easy way to engage the public. Especially younger people, students, alumni and friends of the college. The process is simple, I pick a photo, crop and/or resize it and email it to myself. Using my phone's e-mail, the picture is downloaded. From there it is just a few easy clicks and the photo and comments are posted. Response to this effort has also been quite vigorous.

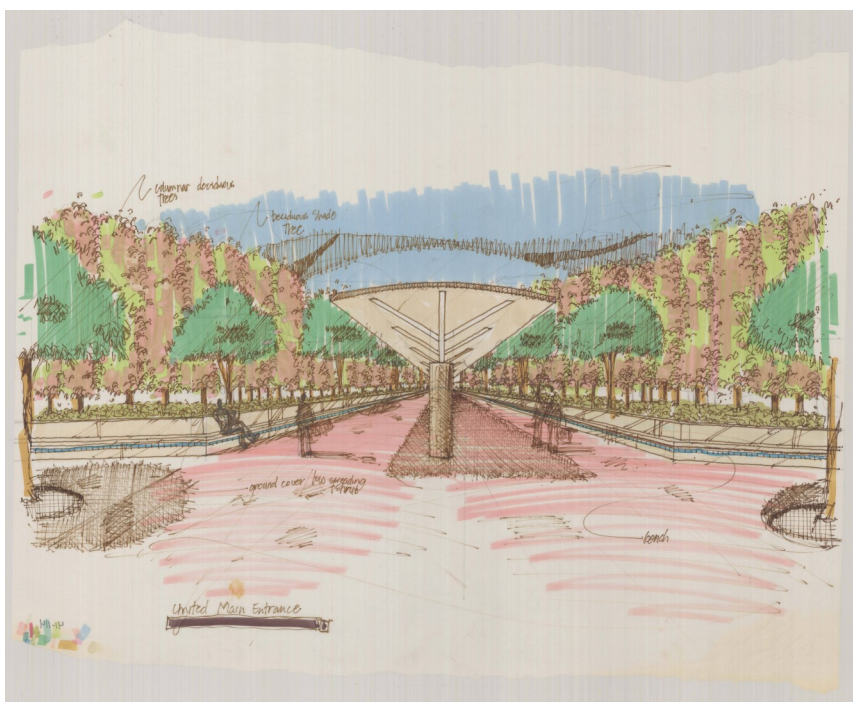
Based on these three social media efforts, I would say that engaging our communities is easier than ever before. Oh, and one last thought, although the social media is created by you, it belongs to your institution. Using this as a guide, any posts that are, or could be, considered political, are to be avoided. Think of yourself as a bulwark against partisan politics. Or as my kids say, "Be Switzerland." By this they mean stay neutral. If, on the other hand, your institution is politically active and supports advocacy, then that can become yet another story. Use your newfound social media presence to highlight the struggles and triumphs of this advocacy.

In summary, social media is here to stay, but with some determination and a little bit of effort, you can use it to highlight the great work, good lives and truly interesting stories that live within your collection. Sharing them has many benefits, and with such little cost, it seems now is the time to bring your archives to the attention of those interested in your host institution.

Beth Swift's blog may be found at: <https://blog.wabash.edu/dearoldwabash/>. She Instagrams under the WallysAttic handle.

Ball State University Documents + Drawings Archives releases two new digital collections

Rebecca Torsell, Architectural Archivist, Ball State University



The Drawings + Documents Archive's [Claire Bennett Associates \(CBA\) Landscape Architecture collection](#) has recently been digitized. The firm became known as CBA and then later changed its name to Landstory, and is still in operation today. Take a look, and enjoy the working drawings and prints for a number of their landscape projects.

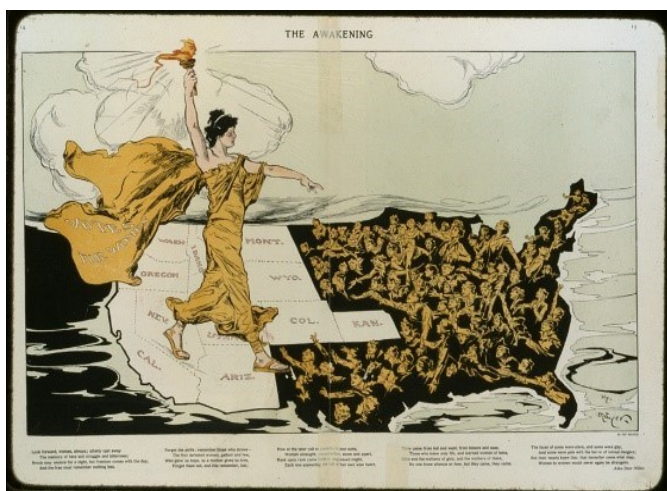
Image to the left is from the Claire Bennet Associates (CBA) Landscape Architecture Collection.

The [Fran E. Schroeder Architectural Records digital collection](#) consists of drawings, photographs, renderings, awards, and correspondence and reference material concerning Schroeder's architectural career. The drawings are from the office of Fran E. Schroeder and Associates and consist of houses, churches, and schools mostly for sites in Indianapolis and the surrounding areas. Some of the photographs and other reference items were taken of buildings designed by the firms Pierre & Wright and McGuire & Shook, where Schroeder was employed prior to opening his own office.

Fran E. Schroeder (1908-1988), a native of Indianapolis, was a well-known architect, some might even consider him to be one of the Hoosier greats! Throughout his career, he worked for Pierre & Wright who were among one of the state's finest firms, and later for the firm McGuire & Shook before founding his own firm.

Ball State University Archives: Women's Suffrage Digital Exhibit

Sarah M. Allison, Head of Archives User Engagement, Ball State University



Ball State University Libraries Archives and Special Collections is celebrating the centennial of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution with a [new digital exhibit](#) that explores the Women's Suffrage movement through the history of the Woman's Franchise League of Indiana. Featuring material from the Stoeckel Archives of Local History, the Indiana State Library, Indiana State Archives and Records Administration, and Minnetrista Heritage Collection, this new digital exhibit highlights the efforts of the women of Muncie to gain the right to vote.

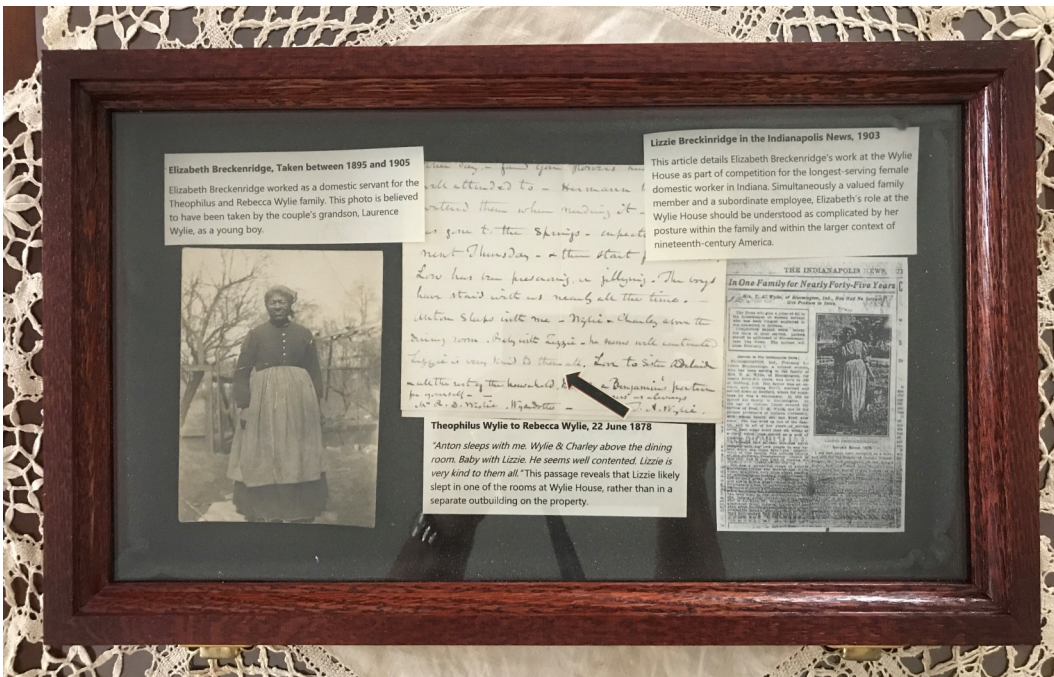
In 1917, the Indiana State Legislature granted women partial suffrage and in a few short months, this right was taken away. The Maston-McKinley Partial Suffrage Bill was made law in February. By October, just before election day, the Indiana State Supreme Court ruled in favor of a lawsuit siding that the partial suffrage law was a violation of the Indiana State Constitution. Educating women on their rights and registering them to vote was a focus of the Woman's Franchise League during this time of change in Indiana. The Muncie League continued their work within their own community and support the efforts of other suffrage leagues throughout Delaware County. Between 1918 and 1920, after the defeat of the partial suffrage law, the League and the Muncie branch continued their work, along with the National Woman Suffrage Association, for a federal amendment to the United States Constitution.

This digital exhibit was made possible through the work of the Archives and Special Collections staff, including Sarah M. Allison, Becky Marangelli, Mindy Shull, and Lindsey Vesper. Additional collaborators included, Katharine D. Leigh from the Ball State University Libraries and Jessica D. Jenkins, Vice President of Collections and Storytelling at Minnetrista Cultural Center.

Call and Response: Creative Interpretations of Wylie House

Carey Champion, Director, Wylie House Museum

On March 6 of this year, a contemporary art exhibition entitled *Call and Response: Creative Interpretations of Wylie House* opened at Indiana University's Wylie House Museum. In pursuit of



narratives that tell all of our stories, the Wylie House employed the transformative power of art to broaden and strengthen its historical interpretation beyond the lives of IU leaders, Andrew and Theophilus Wylie. The museum's archival materials and the gaps in its collections inspired the pieces that comprise the exhibition.

In December of 2019, the 1835 Wylie House Museum invited

eight Indiana artists to create site-responsive works. Specifically, the museum asked the artists to interpret the lesser-known and marginalized people associated with the Wylie House: a Black woman who lived and worked in the home for more than fifty years, the Wylie women, the displaced Native Americans who once lived upon the land the Wylies farmed, the local immigrants, and the lives of the men and women whose sexual identity fell outside the heteronormative culture. Artists visited and toured the museum. Wylie House staff then introduced artists to the archival materials through a dossier of historical information and resources, digital versions of relevant documents and photographs, and links to online finding aids and digital exhibits. Over several weeks, artists returned to the museum multiple times and delved into archival materials as they created their pieces.

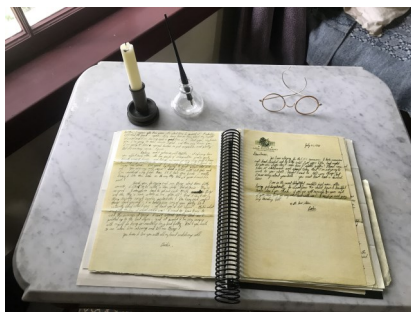
After mining the collections, the artists worked with the Wylie House director to choose a specific location (or multiple locations) for their pieces. Works of art were then installed in each of its ten rooms, two main hallways, attic, and front lawn. The exhibition includes both large and small sculptural pieces, oil painting, watercolors, video animation, textile works, beadwork, and sound elements. These works of art help the museum share the stories of people for whom it has less archival documentation and few to no objects. The art fills narrative gaps and inspires curiosity. Museum visitors ask questions about the art objects, just as they do about museum furnishings and décor, which then provides the jumping off point for staff and docents to share the stories of the people to which the art refers.

In order to supplement the exhibition, a student employee pulled related archival material from the museum collections to display in tabletop exhibit cases. For example, a case sits near a mixed-media sculptural piece by artist Joann Quinones whose art reflects upon the life of Elizabeth Breckenridge, the Black woman who lived and worked in the home as a domestic servant (see image on page 16). The display case includes a photograph of Elizabeth, a newspaper article, and an original family letter with a reference to her. Other cases display similar archival documents and photographs featuring a Wylie daughter who aspired to be a professional artist, the children who grew up in the home, and the relationship between a Wylie granddaughter and Pulitzer Prize winning poet Elizabeth Bishop who identified as a gay woman.

Some artists integrated archival materials directly into their work. One such example is *Bishie*, an installation work by artist Molly Evans. The museum's Bradley-Bishop correspondence collection is the focal point of the interactive piece. Evans recorded local queer community members reading the letters. She then programmed an antique wall phone to play the recordings when the corresponding letter year is selected on the phone's keyboard (see image above).



She also printed and bound copies of the original correspondence for visitors to view along with the recordings (see images below). In instances of gaps in the collection, such as the Native American people who were contemporaries of the Wylies, artists referred to archival materials outside of the Wylie House collections. For example, artist Katrina Mitten, a citizen of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and life-long Indiana resident, used the October 14, 1846 ledger account of 315 Myaamiaki people boarded upon a steamship in Evansville during their forced removal from their homelands. A copy of the ledger forms the background for her piece entitled *I Will Never Forget* (see images on page 19).





The Call and Response: Creative Interpretations of Wylie House exhibition opened as part of Indiana University Bloomington Arts & Humanities' Spring 2020 Indiana Remixed program (a semester-long celebration of Indiana). The COVID-19 pandemic caused the cancellation of the remainder of the spring programming and the closure of the museum. Call and Response remains accessible though, through a virtual tour created in collaboration with IU Virtual Technologies unit. The virtual component provides the capability of linking the artwork out to its related online archival collections and digital materials. The physical exhibition remains up through November 14, allowing small groups of Indiana University students to visit the works of art and explore the archival materials in person. The impact of the exhibition extends beyond its installation period through not only via the virtual tour but also through its influence on the museum's interpretive efforts. In order to support the artists and contextualize their work, more research was done on topics such as 19th century Indiana immigrant experiences. The museum staff also researched the Wylie archival collections for more nuanced insights into the experience of Elizabeth Breckenridge and the Wylie women. The information gathered informs planning for future tours and exhibits, and it inspires museum staff to continue to broaden and strengthen its historical narratives.

[Call and Response: Creative Interpretations of Wylie House Website](#)

[Call and Response: Creative Interpretations of Wylie House Virtual Tour](#)



Do you have archival news to share?

**Send your announcements or blurbs to
siaarchivists@gmail.com.**

Announcements

Ball State's Drawings and Documents Archives receives financial support from Professor Emeritus of Architecture Andrew "Andy" Seager, ensuring the archives will "continue to inspire the design ideas of generations of students and provide guidance to historic preservation efforts across the state." [Learn more here.](#)

Bethany Fiechter resigned from the Indiana State Library in June 2020 after serving as the Head of Rare Books and Manuscripts for 7 years. She began working at DePauw University in July as the Coordinator of Archives and Special Collections. Fiechter will oversee the University Archives as well as the United Methodist Church of Indiana collections.

Some news from Earlham College. **Thomas Hamm** has begun a phased retirement and is now Professor of History and Quaker Scholar in Residence. Jenny Freed, who has served as College Archivist since 2014, will replace him as Director of Special Collections.



Congratulations to **Kaman Hillenburg** for being elected to the Association of Midwest Museums' Board of Directors in July. AMM has sought to connect museums across the eight-state region of the Midwest, including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Its mission is to strengthen museums in the Midwest by providing programs, products, and networking opportunities. Hillenburg is the Collections Manager at the Evansville Museum of Arts, History & Science in Evansville, Indiana; and she has served on SIA's board since 2017.

Amy Christiansen Janicki joined the Indiana Archives and Records Administration as the Records Management Liaison. Amy holds a BA in History from the University of North Florida and a MA in History with an Archival Studies certificate from Auburn University. She previously worked as an archivist at the University of West Alabama and as a project archivist at the Elkhart County Historical Museum. After a brief hiatus from the field, she is happy to be back and helping state agencies manage their public records in her new role.



Wesley W. Wilson retired from DePauw University on June 30, 2020. Wilson began working at DePauw as the Coordinator of Archives and Special Collections in 1984. He now serves as DePauw's Transitional Archives Specialist until the end of the year.

2020-2021 Officers

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Rich Bernier - Vice President

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Newsletter/Blog Editor (ex officio, non-voting)

This position is currently vacant.

Lydia Spotts - Webmaster (ex officio, non-voting)

Associate Archivist/Librarian, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields